(ii) Selection criteria for additional licenses in circles.

(iii) Entry Fee in respect of additional licenses in circles.

(iv) Percentage of Revenue Share as annual License fee.

Commemorative Stamp on Giani Gurmukh Singh Musfir

1753. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of eminent personalities commemorating whom pastage stamps were issued during 1999-2000.

(b) whether it is a fact that Musafir Memorial Trust approached the Ministry of Communications for release of a stamp on the tricentenary of Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir, the noted freedom fighter, parliamentarian and eminent Punjabi writer; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Proposals regarding issue of commemorative postage are examined by the Philatelic Advisory Committee, constituted by the Department of Posts, in the light of existing guidelines to ensure philatelic releveance of the stamp when issued. The list of commemorative postage stamps issued by the Department of Posts to pay homage to eminent personalities during 1999-2000 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal law considered by the Philatelic Advisory Committee at its meeting dated 3.6.2000 and the Committee approved the issue of stamp on the personality during the year 2001.

Statement

List of personalities on whom commemorative stamps were issued during 1999-2000

1. Gulzarilal Nanda
2. Jijabai
3. P.S. Kumaraswamy Raja

4. Balaichand Mukhopadhyay "Banaphool"

India's Struggle for Freedom: "set of 4 stamps on"

5. Sardar Ajit Singh
6. Swami Ramanand Teerth
7. Swami Keshwanand
8. Vishambhar Dayalu Tripathi
9. Kalki Krishnamurthy

Linguistic Harmony of India: set of 4 stamps on

10. Kazi Nazrul Islam
11. Ramdhari Singh "Dinkar"
12. Jhaverchand Kalidas Meghani
13. Rambriksm Benipuri
14. Arati Gupta (Saha)

India's March Towards Progress and Development: set of 4 stamps on

15. Dr. T.M.A. Pai
16. A.D. Shroff
17. A.B. Walawalkar
18. Chhaganlal K. Parekh
19. Veerapandia Kattabomman

Modern Masters of Indian Classical Music: set of 2 stamps on

20. Ustad Allauddin Khan Saheb
21. Musiri Subramania Iyer
22. Brigadier Rajinder Singh, MVC

Freedom Fighter and Social Reformers set of 4 stamps on

23. A. Vaidyanatha Iyer
24. Indulal Kanaiyalal Yagnik
25. Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh
26. P. Kakkan
27. Mahatma Gandhi

Gallantry Award Winners: set of 5 stamps on

28. L/Nk Albert Ekka, PVC
29. CQMH Abdul Hamid, PVC
30. L/Nk Karam Singh, PVC, MM

31. Flg. Offr. NJS Shekhon, PVC

32. Capt. MN Mulla, MVC

Personalities: Birth Centenary set of 3 stamps on

33. Jananayak Arun Kumar Chanda

34. Balwantrai Mehta

35. Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab

36. Dr. Boorgula Ram krishna Rao

37. Potti Sirramulu

38. Basawon Singh

Provision of bandwidth through submarine cables

1754. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the State IT Ministers' Conference on 14th July, 2000 it is stated that henceforth VSNL will not be the sole bandwidth providers for ISPs;

(b) whether at present VSNL has contract with both FLAG SMW to provide bandwidth through sub- marine cables;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that SMW's rates are cheaper and PM's announcement will put VSNL in financial and contractual jeopardy vis-a-vis FLAG and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, VSNL has contract with both FLAG and SMW-3 to privide bandwidth through their repsective submarine cables.

(c) VSNL has invested approx. US $ 37 million in FLAG for acquiring 1552 MBPS streams to various destinations, while in the case of SMW-3, the investment is US $ 48 million and the total capacity at the disposal of VSNL is 14.4 lakhs MIU km.

(d) As per recent quotes, the cost of capacity through Sea Me We 3 system is about 50% of FLAG.